



## Veterinary Ireland Media Release 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### **‘A WORLD CLASS VETERINARY SERVICE FOR A WORLD CLASS EQUINE SECTOR’ 2016 IRISH EQUINE VETERINARY CONFERENCE, KILKENNY**

Equine expert Leo Powell officially opened the **2016 Irish Equine Veterinary Conference** in The Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny today (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2016), attended by over 100 vets specialising in the care of horses.

The two day conference organised by Veterinary Ireland runs on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016, preceded by practical wetlab sessions in Ballylinch Stud on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Speaking in Kilkenny, **Leo Powell** said that Irish bloodstock and racing is a world leader, and Ireland is a centre of excellence in every aspect of the business. So why are its successes overlooked? Is it a case that ‘a prophet is honoured everywhere except in his own hometown’?

**Rosalinda Devereux** MRCVS, Chair of Veterinary Ireland’s Equine Committee from Wexford Equine Veterinary Practice, said that the significance of the equine sector can be seen in the figures, with the thoroughbred sector worth over €1.1 billion, exporting to some 37 countries and employing 14,000 people countrywide; and the Irish Sport Horse Industry estimated to contribute €700 million to the economy, supporting 12,000 jobs.

She pointed to the Joint Committee on Agriculture Food & The Marine’s report on the Irish Horse Industry published at the start of the year which recognises that Ireland is an ideal location for the raising of young horses in terms of geology, soil and climate. This is matched by knowledge of the sector.

“The clinical and scientific expertise of Irish veterinarians has a significant contribution to make to the Irish equine sector in areas such as breeding, welfare, health and disease control measures through vaccination and identification of contagion risks,” said Ms. Devereux.

#### **Chipping & Registering Needs Enforcement Across All Sectors**

Vets also have an interest in supporting microchipping and passport/I.D. in the important area of traceability. “The thoroughbred sector has demonstrated excellent compliance in terms of microchipping and registering horses, but this compliance needs to be enforced for all of our horses including the extensive non-thoroughbred sector if we are to promote accountability and responsibility for animal welfare and disease control.”

Ms. Devereux welcomed to the speaker line-up **Dr. Lynn Hillyer**, in her new role as Head of Anti-Doping and Chief Veterinary Officer for The Turf Club. “We as an industry share an interest in maintaining and protecting horse welfare and the integrity of the sport. We are interested in the extensive experience Dr. Hillyer brings to the role from the UK and at European level and look forward to collaborating in the fight against the use of illegal substances.”

“This conference demonstrates the commitment of our sector to stay up to speed, constantly learning about the latest surgical practices, techniques and scientific thinking so that we can provide a world class veterinary service to this world class sector.”

Centred around the main themes of diagnosis and management, the veterinary topics for discussion at the conference included ultrasounds and radiography, stifle injuries, tendon injuries and back pain.



**Marie Harty** (Anglesey Lodge Equine Hospital, The Curragh, Kildare) presented the inaugural **Ned Gowing Memorial Lecture**, telling the story of her former senior colleague who founded Anglesey Lodge Equine Hospital in 1976. “He was a thought leader, who lived through a tremendous amount of change in his lifetime and brought veterinary medicine into a modern digital era,” said Ms. Harty.

Local conference speakers included **Peadar Ó Scanaill** (O’Scanaill Veterinary Hospital, Ashbourne); **Warren Schofield** (Troytown GreyAbbey Equine Hospital, Kildare); **Ann Cullinane** (Irish Equine Centre) and **Jeremiah O’ Sullivan** (Clinic na gCapall, Old Leighlin, Carlow).

**Plenary speakers at the Veterinary Ireland Conference in Kilkenny included:**

**Professor Celia Marr**, BVMS, MVM, PhD, DEIM, DipECEIM, FRCVS an Honorary Professor of the University of Glasgow, Editor-in-Chief of Equine Veterinary Journal, and Chairman of the Veterinary Advisory Committee of the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

Celia Marr is a European and RCVS Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine, responsible for Internal Medicine, Cardiology. The author of a wide range of publications on medical disorders of the horse, Celia Marr’s subjects related to diagnosis and management of arrhythmias and separately in relation to heart murmurs; and to participation in the Pre Purchase Panel Discussion on Saturday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> November, from 3.30pm.

**Dr Sinead Devine**, DVM MVB CVMA. Equine Field Service. Certified in Animal Chiropractic. Assistant Professor in Equine Clinical Studies at UCD Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Devine draws on her previous experiences with Peninsula Equine Medical Centre in California, a referral hospital focusing on sport horse medicine and lameness. Dr Devine leads practical sessions on the diagnosis and management of back pain and also takes part in the Pre Purchase Panel Discussion on Saturday afternoon.

**Professor Roger Smith**, MA, VetMB, PhD, DEO, DipECVS, MRCVS, Professor of Equine Orthopaedics at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), University of London (Department: Clinical Sciences and Services). Roger Smith presented and participated in lab sessions on subjects ranging from tendon injuries to ultrasound techniques.

Updates and perspectives on the Irish Equine Centre and on Standardbred Racing in Ireland are amongst some of the other industry related topics discussed during the conference.

Rosalinda Devereux expressed thanks to equine committee colleagues from Veterinary Ireland - Catherine Dwan, Bridget McGing, Don Collins and Jürgen Bodamer.

Colleagues from VICAS (Veterinary Ireland Companion Animal Society) also hosted a one day business programme in Kilkenny on Friday 11th November in Lyrath with Geoff Little as the main speaker.

**ENDS**

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## EDITORIAL FOOTNOTES:

Copy of abstracts/scientific presentations available on request. A full copy of the conference schedule is available here:

[https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file\\_uploads/956302631205f29165da6c4d2e111e3b\\_IEVC2016-ConferenceFlyer.pdf](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/956302631205f29165da6c4d2e111e3b_IEVC2016-ConferenceFlyer.pdf)

**Leo Powell** – who delivered the opening address for the Veterinary Ireland Equine Conference 2016 - has a wealth of experience in the fields of bloodstock sales and media, based on a 40-year award winning career working in senior roles with three world-class brands including Goffs, The Irish National Stud and Tattersalls Ireland Ltd. He has been Managing Editor of equine and equestrian publication The Irish Field since 2003.

One of the longest serving Council members of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Leo Powell has been honoured within the industry on three occasions.

- During his time serving with the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association he was given the Contribution to the Industry Award.
- The Northern Region of the ITBA honoured him with the Denis Stothers Award in recognition of his unstinting support for breeders in the region, being the first recipient of the award not to be born in the region. Other honourees include Sir Anthony McCoy.
- In 2015 the Association of Irish Riding Clubs presented him with the Lancelot Award in recognition of his championing of their sector within The Irish Field.